

Data Matching

Citizenship

Current Recipients: In July 2006, DHMH sent a file of all existing Medicaid beneficiaries (in all Medicaid programs) to the Office of Vital Records. That file contained the names of 647,317 individuals. The Office of Vital Records was able to recognize 369,640 of those individuals as having birth records on file. Therefore, fifty-seven percent (57%) of Medicaid recipients do not have to provide proof of citizenship. Each month, the Department sends letters to each recipient scheduled for re-determination informing them of their citizenship and identity status as well as the documentation required to remain eligible. The letters are sent out 2 months in advance. The first letters were sent in late July 2006 for the September 2006 re-determination period. Examples of letters that may be sent to recipients depending on the recipients' status are located at the following website: http://dhmh.state.md.us/html/hotissues_notices.htm.

New Applicants: Starting in September 2006, DHMH was able to match names of new applicants against Vital Records information. From September through December 2006 the Department received 164,468 pending new applications from DHR of which 146,775 (89%) were applicants that had not applied for Medicaid previously. We compared those pending applications to our previously matched records to identify 69,331 (47%) new applicants to be sent to Vital Records for matching. Of the pending application records checked by Vital Records, we were able to match birth records for 26,359 (38%).

The applicants whose information did not match with Vital Records must provide proof of citizenship. When local departments of social services and local health departments receive citizenship and identity documents, the documents are sent to a designated post office box at DHMH. These documents are used to update the "Citizenship and Identity Repository."

Identity

In November, the Department revised its policies to consider the Form 1184 - Hospital Notification of Birth as proof of identity. Those forms are sent directly to the Department from a hospital. All Maryland hospitals and some out-of-state hospitals supply the form. The Department considers that form as proof of identity and updates its repository with the information. This policy revision has resulted in a significant decrease in the number of clients that need to provide proof of identity. If the Department receives an 1184 and a match from the Office of Vital Records, then the applicant does not have to provide any documentation at all.